

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A mobile device comprising:

a) at least one mobile computing application;

5 b) at least one phone application; and

c) a user-controllable pivoting input switch having multiple operational modes, wherein a plurality of operational modes direct the operation of the mobile computing application, and a plurality of operational modes direct the operation of the phone application.

10 2. The device of claim 1, wherein the switch pivots about an axis for at least one of the operational modes.

3. The device of claim 2, wherein the switch is a rotary switch.

4. The device of claim 2, wherein the switch is a rocking switch.

15 5. The device of claim 2, wherein one operational mode requires the rotation of the pivoting switch in the clockwise direction about the axis.

6. The device of claim 5, wherein another operational mode requires the rotation of the pivoting switch in the counterclockwise direction about the axis.

7. The device of claim 5, wherein another operational mode requires pressing in the switch.

8. The device of claim 5, wherein another operational mode requires pressing in the switch and holding the switch in this state for a duration of time.

5 9. The device of claim 8, wherein the pressing and holding of the switch directs the phone application to perform a redial operation.

10. The device of claim 8, wherein the pressing and holding of the switch directs the phone application to terminate an active call session.

10 11. The device of claim 5, wherein the rotation of the switch directs the phone application to adjust the volume of a phone conversation.

12. The device of claim 11, wherein the rotation of the switch directs the phone application to adjust the volume of a phone conversation during an active call session.

13. A mobile device comprising:

- 15 a) at least one application;
- b) a user-controllable pivoting input switch that can be operated in at least first and second modes, wherein each operational mode directs the operation of the application, wherein the first mode requires the switch to pivot about an axis, and the

second mode requires pressing in the switch and holding the switch in this state for a duration of time.

14. The device of claim 13, wherein the first operational mode requires the rotating of the switch in the clockwise direction about the axis, wherein the switch can be operated in a third mode by rotating the switch in the counterclockwise direction about the axis.

15. The device of claim 14, wherein another operational mode requires pressing in the switch towards the axis.

16. The device of claim 13, wherein the application is a phone application, and the second operation directs the phone application to perform a redial operation.

17. The device of claim 13, wherein the application is a phone application, and the second operation directs the phone application to terminate an active call session.

18. The device of claim 17, wherein the rotation of the switch directs the phone application to adjust the volume of a phone conversation.

19. The device of claim 13, wherein the application is a phone application, wherein the pivoting of the switch directs the phone application to adjust the volume of a phone conversation during an active call session.

20. A mobile device comprising:

a) a computing application;

b) a phone application;

c) a user-controllable pivoting input switch that can be operated in at least first and second modes, wherein each operational mode directs the operation of the application, wherein the first mode requires the switch to pivot in one direction about an axis, and the second mode requires the switch to pivot in another direction about the axis;

wherein while the phone application is active, the first and second modes direct the phone application to adjust the volume of a phone conversation during an active call session.

21. A method of operating a mobile device that has a pivoting input switch, a computing application, and a phone application, the method comprising:

a) rotating the switch in a first direction to direct the phone application to perform a first operation;

b) rotating the switch in the first direction to direct the computing application to perform a second operation.

22. The method of claim 21 further comprising:

pressing in the switch to direct the operation of at least one of the applications.

23. The method of claim 21 further comprising:

placing the switch in a pressed state and holding the switch in the pressed state to direct the operation of at least one of the applications.

24. A mobile device comprising:

a) a display screen,

5 b) a lid removably covering the display screen, said lid having a transparent element that allows at least a portion of the display screen to be visible while the lid covers the display screen;

c) at least one application;

10 d) a user-controllable pivoting input switch that directs the operation of the application even when the lid covers the display screen.

25. The device of claim 24, wherein the lid pivotally couples to the device, wherein the lid can be in at least a retracted state and an extended state, wherein in the retracted state the lid covers the display screen, and in the extended state the lid does not cover the display screen, wherein the lid rotate about is pivotal connection to the device
15 to go from one state to another.

26. The device of claim 24, wherein the application is a phone application.

27. The device of claim 26, wherein the pivoting input switch allows a user to interact with the phone application while the lid covers the display screen.

28. The device of claim 27, wherein the pivoting input switch allows the user to initiate a telephone call while the lid covers the display screen.

29. The device of claim 28, wherein pivoting input switch allows a user to interact with the phone application while the lid covers the display screen only when the device either includes a headset or a headset is plugged into the device.

30. The device of claim 24, wherein the application displays a graphical user interface ("GUI") to a user, and the pivoting input switch allows a user to interact with the GUI while the lid covers the display screen.

31. The device of claim 30, wherein the application is a phone application.

32. The device of claim 30, wherein the application is a computing application.

33. The device of claim 30, wherein the application is an Internet browsing application, and the device further includes a wireless transceiver for facilitating communications between the device and the Internet.

34. The device of claim 30, wherein the application is an e-mail application, and the device further includes a wireless transceiver for facilitating communications between the device and the Internet.